

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR CY TU

SUBJ: SENATOR KENNEDY'S LETTER ON CYPRUS AID

REF: A. NICOSIA 0527; B. NICOSIA 4553, PART II, PARA 4 & 5

1. WE HAVE NOT RECEIVED DEPARTMENT RESPONSE TO REF A ON SENATOR KENNEDY COMMENTS MADE THREE WEEKS AGO ON SUBJECT OF RELIEF AID TO CYPRUS.
2. LOCAL PRESS AND GOC INFORMATION SERVICE NOW PLAYING RECENT PUBLIC COMMENT BY SENATOR KENNEDY ON ALLEGED NON-RESPONSIVENESS OF STATE DEPARTMENT WITH REGARD TO REFUGEE RELIEF AID FOR CYPRUS AND GOC REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE. LOCAL PRESS ALSO PUBLICIZING SCHEDULE OF ARMS SHIPMENT AS STATED BY KENNEDY WITH IMPLICATION THAT THIS PROOF ARMS SHIPMENTS PRESENTLY CONTINUING AND PLANNED TO CONTINUE.
3. DEPARTMENT MAY WISH OFFER CLARIFICATION TO SENATOR'S OFFICE ON MATTER OF AID, POINTING OUT THAT WE HAVE BEEN FULLY RESPONSIVE TO BOTH UNHCR AND ICRC REQUESTS. AS FOR GOC REQUESTS, KOSHELEFF AND AMBASSADOR EXPLAINED TO THE SENATOR'S STAFF AIDE DEHAAN FIVE WEEKS AGO THAT WE WERE ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT POSSIBILITIES OF REFORE-

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STATION BUT WERE CONVINCED BEST COURSE WAS TO AWAIT COMPLETION

OF JOINT GOC/UNDP STUDY OF REFORESTATION NEEDS. (SEE REF B.)

4. ON QUESTION OF GOC REQUESTS FOR FOOD, USG HAS BEEN LARGEST SINGLE CONTRIBUTOR TO BOTH UNHCR AND ICRC; ALL FOOD NEEDS OF REFUGEES ARE BEING MET BY THESE ORGANIZATIONS. GOC HAD INFORMALLY ASKED FOR WHEAT AND BARLEY ASSISTANCE. WE DID NOT ENCOURAGE THE GOC ON THIS LINE, POINTING OUT GOC'S VERY HIGH FX RESERVES, EXPECTATION OF GOOD HARVESTS THIS YEAR, GOC'S GRAIN BOARD OPINION THAT GOVERNMENT WOULD BE ABLE TO HANDLE SOUTH'S GRAIN NEEDS.

5. AS BACKGROUND, POINT MIGHT BE MADE TO SENATOR KENNEDY THAT GOC FX RESERVES NOT ONLY VERY HIGH BUT ACTUALLY INCREASING (FROM INVISIBLE EARNINGS) AND THAT CYPRUS POUND CONTINUES TO APPRECIATE. FURTHER, GOC CONTINUES TO SHY AWAY FROM USING OWN FX WHERE FOREIGN AID CAN BE SUBSTITUTED. FOR DEPT INFO ONLY, GOC SEEMS UNWILLING TO PURSUE STRINGENT FISCAL OR MONETARY POLICIES.

6. AS FOR SENATOR'S IMPLIED CHARGES ON MILITARY SALES AND MAP DELIVERIES, DEPARTMENT MAY WISH POINT OUT AID DELIVERY SCHEDULES DRAWN UP BEFORE AID CUTOFF DATE AND ARE NO LONGER APPLICABLE. WE ALSO NEED CONFIRMATION OF THIS FOR LOCAL USE.
CRAWFORD

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